

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 01276 051322Z

47

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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R 051220Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8744

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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USDOCOSOUTH

USEUCOM

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NICOSIA 1276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, CY, GR

SUBJECT: MAKARIOS PUSHES TOWARD CRUNCH WITH ATHENS

SUMMARY: BASED ON STILL INCOMPLETE INFORMATION, MAKARIOS JULY 5
PRESS CONFERENCE AND JULY 3 LETTER TO PRESIDENT GIZIKIS SUGGEST
GOCYPRUS DETERMINED PUSH NG ISSUE TO CRUNCH WITH ATHENS.
MUCH WILL NOW DEPEND ON GOGREECE REACTION.
END SUMMARY

1. IN JULY 5 PRESS CONFERENCE

ARCHBISHOP CONFIRMED HARD-LINE CHARGES

AGAINST GREEK MILITARY REGIME AND NG OFFICERS WHICH HIS PIO
MADE OVER PAST FEW WEEKS. FBIS WILL CARRY FULL TEST.

2. SPECIFICALLY, ARCHBISHOP SAID: (1) DIFFICULT ATHENS/NICOSIA
RELATIONS DUE MAINLY TO ACTIVITY OF CERTAIN MAINLAND NG OFFICERS
(PARTICULARLY THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN EOKA-B) AND REFUSAL OF NGGS
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 01276 051322Z

ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM ATHENS TO WITHDRAW UNAPPROVED CANDIDATE

RESERVE OFFICERS FROM TRAINING SCHOOLS; (2) THAT "LEADING MEMBERS OF MILITARY REGIME OF GREECE CONTROL, MAINTAIN AND DIRECT" EOKA-B; (3) THAT HE HAD WRITTEN COMPREHENSIVE LETTER TO GOGREECE PRESIDENT GIZIKIS, DELIVERED JULY 3, WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED; (4) THAT GOCYPRUS INTENDS IN FUTURE STAFF AND ADMINISTER NG WITH CYPRIOT OFFICERS; (5) THAT GOCYPRUS WILL CONTINUE PROSECUTE EOKA-B UNTIL ITS DISSOLUTION; (6) "IN VERY NEAR FUTURE" HE WILL PROBABLY VISIT SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES; AND (7) POLICE FORCE WILL RISE BY 500, MANY OF WHOM WILL ENTER TRU. IN SOLE REFERENCE TO TALKS, MAKARIOS SAID DENKTASH DOCUMENT "PRACTICALLY ELIMINATES" ALL GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM RE OUTCOME OF TALKS.

3. MAKARIOS' TONE RE ATHENS AND NG WAS TOUGH AND UNYIELDING THROUGHOUT. HE SARCASTICALLY REFERRED TO EASE WITH WHICH ANTI-MAKARIOS ELEMENTS OPERATE IN ATHENS BY SAYING THIS MAY PRESAGE POLITICAL OPPOSITION ACTIVITY IN GREECE.

4. ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS PAST FEW DAYS, MAKARIOS' LETTER TO GIZIKIS CONTAINS PHOTOSTAT COPIES OF INCRIMINATING EOKA-B DOCUMENTS SHOWING GUILT AND INVOLVEMENT OF NG AND ATHENS REGIME. PRESS ALSO REPORTS (AND FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMS) GOCYPRUS WILL ASK ALL GREEK OFFICERS TO LEAVE AND RETAIN SOME 50-100 GREEK "ADVISORS", THOUGH MAKARIOS REPORTEDLY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION IF GOGREECE WERE TO REFUSE REQUEST FOR ADVISORS.

5. COMMENT: CONTRARY TO OUR EARLIER HOPES, ARCHBISHOP APPEARS DETERMINED TO PRESS HIS ADVANTAGE TO LIMIT ON NG ISSUE. BOTH HIS PRESS CONFERENCE REMARKS AND WHAT WE KNOW RE HIS LETTER TO GIZIKIS, SHOW NO SIGN OF GIVE ON QUESTION OF NG, ALTHOUGH ONE SMALL HOPEFUL NOTE IS THAT LETTER TO GIZIKIS APPARENTLY SET NO RPT NO SPECIFIC DEADLINE FOR GREEK OFFICERS' WITHDRAWAL. HALVING OF NG SIZE AND REMOVAL ALL GREEK OFFICERS EXCEPT "ADVISORS", IF IMPLEMENTED, WILL GREATLY ERODE GOGREECE INFLUENCE ON ISLAND. IT WILL ALSO SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE EFFECTIVENESS OF ONLY MAJOR DEFENSE FORCE ON ISLAND. WE WONDER WITH SOME UNEASE HOW ATHENS WILL REACT. END COMMENT.
DAVIES

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